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Good Morning Senator Slossberg, Representative Morin, distinguished members of the Government, Administration and Elections Committee. For the record, I am State Representative Jim Crawford of the 35th Assembly District (Clinton, Killingworth and Westbrook).

I want to thank you for hearing the bill that I proposed, House Bill 5736: An Act Giving Preference to Resident Bidders in the Awarding of State Contracts. The purpose of my testimony this morning is to provide support for this bill.

This bill would require state agencies to award state contracts to in-state bidders as long as they fall within 5% of the lowest bid.

This bill helps to create jobs and ensure that jobs will stay in Connecticut and keeps our tax money in the State. In this economy we should be doing everything that we can to grow jobs in Connecticut. Awarding contracts to out of state bidders does nothing to help our economy. These contractors are paid with state taxpayer dollars; we owe it to the taxpayers to keep as many of their hard earned dollars in state as we can.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.